Central American NEWSLETTER

Newsletter of the Central American Group of the Spanish Main Society.

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EDITORIAL

Once again Nicaragua takes the lion's share of this Newsletter - simply because the Editor receives comparatively little "copy" for the other countries. So, if you El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala collectors are dissatisfied, what about rallying round and writing something? Difficulties in photocopying the red surcharge mentioned in Causerie 1004 of our last issue have delayed the promised short article on this El Salvador oddity; information about other strange Salvador covers of this period would be most helpful.

One short article (with accompanying illustration from the Editor's collection) which appears in this issue was written by Russell Haydon, aged twelve. Admittedly, Russell is a very bright twelve-year-old, and he is a devoted collector of Salvador, but the Editor hopes that this contribution from a "juvenile" will stir the adult readers into action!

Bernard Davies

THE POSTAL TAX STAMPS OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC by DOUGLAS BAYLISS

Since 1930, when a set of four stamps plus the same surcharged for Air Mail issued for hurricane relief, the Dominican Republic has made a practice of raising funds for various charitable purposes by this means.

The next set was in 1932. This was for the benefit of the Red Cross, and use of these stamps, in addition to normal franking, was obligatory on first class mail between certain dates, a practice that has been continued with all subsequent issues of charity stamps by this country.

From 1950 one or more stamps has been issued almost every year. The principle causes they have served are, cancer research, child welfare, rehabilitation of the handicapped, anti-tuberculosis, and the postal and telegraph school.

Several designs have been reused with changes in design (sometimes minor, and including the year of issue), colour, size, perforation or printing method. All the stamps are lithographed, though some have a screened background.

Some of the more recent stamps go not appear in the S.G. Central American Catalogue of 1980, but can be found in Scott and other catalogues. Scott differs from S.G. in some respects; notably on perforations: for these S.G. is more reliable, though they have failed to mention the frame colours of the Postal School stamps.

Papers vary considerably, from thin, semi-transparent to thick surfaced, but only in one instance have I found two kinds used for the same issue: this was the 1967 Child Welfare stamp (Scott RA39; SG1010) printed on medium wove and thin, semi-transparent papers. There may be other instances.

A BRIEF REPORT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL SEQUENCES IN NICARAGUA FROM 1924 TO 1931

by CYRIL WOODTLI

In 1923 the President of Nicaragua, Dr Diego Manuel Chamorro, died, and his vice-President, Dn Bartolo Martinez, took over the Presidential Office.

In October 1924 elections were held, supervised by the US Marines, and the resulting President elect was Dn Carlos Solorzano, who on 1 January 1925 duly received the Presidential Sash of Office from Dn Bartolo Martinez. The new President selected as his vice-President Dr Juan Bautista Sacasa.

Dn Carlos Solorzano was a patriotically minded Conservative, and he wanted to end the constant Conservative/Liberal party bickerings, and so he chose Dr Sacasa, who was a Liberal, as his co-runner.

This would have been good had he, Dn Carlos, been a strong man, but this he was not unfortunately. To carry out his ideas he appointed Conservatives to certain positions in the government, whilst selecting Liberals for other posts, hoping by this means to maintain a settled government throughout. This did not turn out as he had hoped, and when he received claims and counter-claims from one or other of the parties, he needed a strong hand to control the situation, and this he could not do. The outcome was that, in October of 1925, he was forced to abdicate his office by Coup d'état, effected by General Emiliano Chamorro V.

This being the case, the vice-President, Dr J Bautista Sacasa, should have taken over control, but at the moment of the coup he was in Leon, and he was warned that Chamorro had sent out an order for him to be arrested in order to avoid any intervention on his part, he was therefore forced to flee the country, which he did, leaving Leon disguised as a peasant woman, escaping into San Salvador.

As soon as the coup d'état had been effected and J Bautista Sacasa was in hiding, Emiliano Chamorro V. declared himself the de-facto President, and he requested the American Minister in Managua to have his position recognised by the US State Department. This however the US Government refused to do, but it was intimated to him that he should install some other person in the position and recognition could then be granted, provided always that the person selected was acceptable to them. He put forward his nominee, Dn Adolfo Diaz, a Conservative, and he was duly proclaimed President, and duly recognised by the State Department.

In the meantime, Dr Juan Bautista Sacasa, the former vice-President, made his way to Washington and requested that they (the US Government) should recognise the fact that he was the legitimate candidate for the Presidency, which he had been debarred from claiming, by force of arms, and he requested that the US Government renounce Adolfo Diaz and support him in returning to Nicaragua as President.

The US were in a dilemma, having precipitately installed and recognised Adolfo Diaz, whom they could not now depose without acknowledging that they had made a mistake, so they had to refuse J B Sacasa's request.

At that time, feelings between Mexico and the US Government were not too happy, and the Mexican Government, under Plutarco Elias Calles, was always glad of an opportunity to go against the Americans, and so he offered his support to Dr Sacasa, offering him arms and an expedition of men and materials to instal him on the Atlantic seaboard of Nicaragua, which Dr Sacasa duly accepted and he eventually landed at Puerto Cabezas on the north east corner of Nicaragua, where he formally declared himself as the legitimate President of Nicaragua, and he formed a government there. His governemnt was recognised by Mexico, Argentina and several other Latin American governments.

He nominated General Jose Maria Moncada as his Chief of Armed Forces, with the task of invading the country from East to West and eventually entering the Capital, Managua and the west coastal area. This is incidentally the most populated area in the country, the intervening territory between that strip and the Atlantic coast, being virtually virgin jungle and mountains. He claimed that he was combating the revolution which had been started by the coup d'état of Emiliano Chamorro V., but of course the now legalised government of Adolfo Diaz declared that he was the revolutionary.

Among the forces under the command of General Jose Maria Moncada, was a young officer Anastasio Somoza, who had been trained at the US West Point Academy, also another officer was Augusto Cesar Sandino, both of whom fought valiantly in their efforts to overcome the forces sent against them by the Diaz government. Their efforts were so successful that, in spite of the US Marine support given to the Diaz faction, Moncada's troops advanced almost to the gates of Managua, where they were expected with great trepidation.

During this time, the US Government comprehending the error they had committed, recalled their Minister from Managua, and sent down Henry L Stimson from the US State Department. He was instructed to bring the matter to a conclusion in order to avoid further bloodshed which would certainly have occurred had the Moncada army entered Managua.

H L Stimson arranged a meeting with Moncada at a small village called Tipitapa, and there under the shade of a Blackthorn Tree, a peace treaty was signed, which is known as the Tratado del Espino Negro, To honour this treaty the village of Tipitapa was renamed Stimsonville.

The treaty was signed on 4 May 1927 and the terms were that the US Government would pay ten dollars for each rifle the Moncada troops handed in, and that was to include all the stores which they had in Puerto Cabezas. New elections would be held throughout the country, which would be supervised by the US Marines. It is reputed also that an understanding was arrived at whereby if General Moncada were to advance himself as a candidate, he would be returned as the Liberal President. He took over as President on 1 January 1929.

This was duly effected, but on the signing of the treaty, one of Moncada's Generals, Augusto Cesar Sandino, refused to accept the terms, stating that he would not surrender his arms whilst there was a single US Marine left fighting in Nicaragua, and so he took to the hills around the north of the country where he waged guerilla warfare against the now "legal" government of General Moncada. In the government's efforts to overcome Sandino, Anastasio Somoza was promoted to the post of Chief of government forces, aided by US Marines, and they fought a long hard battle against Sandino, whose forces became known as Sandinistas, which name is now given to all factions who opposed the Somoza government.

The fighting continued without any significant results, until after the earthquake of 31 March 1931, when Somoza called on Sandino to come to Managua, under a flag of truce for talks, indicating that the great need now was to help the country to overcome the problems resulting from the earthquake and general depression. He assured Sandino of a safe conduct for this purpose, but as soon as Sandino and his party arrived at the Campo de Marte in Managua, where the conference was to take place, National Guards, who had been strategically placed with machine guns, opened fire on the Sandino party, killing them there and then, in the grounds of the Campo. Thus ended the Sandino episode, by trachery instigated by the man who was later to become the President of the country, but the spirit still persists.

THE REVALIDATED ISSUES OF NICARAGUA (1927-28) by BERNARD DAVIES

Cyril Woodtli's article gives some idea of the political chaos existing in Nicaragua during the period 1925-28. Although the Sacasa Revolution itself was short-lived, lasting from November 1926 to May 1927, it lasted long enough for considerable looting of post offices and their stamp stocks to take place. The habit of cleaning used stamps in quantity was among other irregularities causing serious loss of revenue to the official government. As a result, on April 28th., 1927, President Diaz issued the following decree:

"THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC considering THAT IT HAS BEEN NOTICED that telegraph, fiscal and postal stamps are being taken off documents, letters, etc., washed and used ORDERS

1. That all telegraph, fiscal and postal stamps will be surcharged "Resello 1927".
2. From May 15th onwards, stamps which do not bear this surcharge will be invalidated.

3. The government Inspector in charge of this department will supervise the work of surcharging at the Government Printing Office, and will see that the old remaining stock at offices throughout the Republic is returned and exchanged for the newly surcharged stamps.

MANAGUA, THE PALACE. A. DIAZ. President.
F. GUZMAN. Minister of Finance."

Because of the difficulty of effecting the exchange in the remoter areas of the Republic, a presidential decree dated 12th May, 1927, extended the date in para 2 above from May 15th to June 15th. However, the first of the Resello issues was ready and available from the more accessible post offices on May 3rd. This FIRST ISSUE was overprinted in BLACK, although the 1c and 5c appeared also in RED (for better colour-contrast with the original stamp) as did the ½c. Some of the 3c and almost all the 10c were overprinted (mistakenly?) in BLUE. The entire work was done as a rush job and is replete with errors - double, triple and inverted surcharges/overprints*, "1297" for "1927", "Rseello" etc.. Two settings of 100 overprints were employed:

1. For the 1,2 and 5c and the 1c R de C values, has the constant error of inverted "s" in "Resello" in position 20.
2. For the remaining values. Has an extra-long "1" in "1927" in position 17.

This FIRST ISSUE had a very short life, because it was quickly discovered that the black, red and blue inks could easily be removed, making the stamps re-usable. Quantities issued of this FIRST printing are:-

	½c 30,000	4c 1,200		15c 2,400	
	1c 250,000	5c 50,000		20c 2,500	
1c R de C	1c 250,000	6c 1,000		25c 3,000	
	2c 250,000	10c 30,000		50c 2,500	
	3c 13,000			1 cor 1,000	

The SECOND ISSUE was rushed out on May 19th with additional quantities being printed until 1st September. This print was done in thick, sticky VIOLET ("copying") ink, which reacted obviously when attempts were made to clean off the stamp. The total issues of the VIOLET "Resello 1927" completed by 1st September were:-

	½c 150,000	4c 1,000		15c 11,000	
	1c 300,000	5c 60,000		20c 21,000	
1c R de C	1c 204,800	6c 1,000		25c 20,800	
	2c 507,000	10c 60,000		50c 21,500	
	3c 65,000			1 cor 21,500	

A THIRD ISSUE of the "Resello 1927" stamps was made on September 26th., 1927, consisting of 150,000 1c R de C stamps overprinted in BLUE copying ink. In October and early November unspecified additional numbers of the R de C stamps appeared in BLUE copying ink, including some on the R de C 1925. There were also a few 5c overprinted in BLACK copying ink.

All of the above issues were, of course, overprints on the Palace and Cathedral issue which had been in service for fourteen years. The Official Gazette of 11th November 1927 announced the arrival of a new supply of stamps from the American Bank Note Co., but these were held in stock while further attempts were made to defeat the fiddlers. It must be a matter of some conjecture how far the "fiddlers" were motivated by personal gain, and how far their operations were part of an attempt to "de-stabilize" the Diaz government. Be that as it may, government postal revenue was still taking a knock despite the best efforts of copying ink. Therefore, on 31st December 1927 all "Resello 1927" stamps were invalidated for postal duty, arrangements being made for them to be exchanged for a new "Resello 1928" issue, which became available on 3rd January 1928. These RESELLO 1928 stamps were overprinted in VIOLET copying ink, and were delivered in two batches of the following quantities:-

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* the author apologises for confusion of terms "surcharge" and "overprint" in translation from gazettes etc..

½c	200,000 on 3rd Jan.			6c	22,600 on 3rd Jan
1c	250,000	193,800 on 6th March		10c	111,600
1c R de C	250,000	150,000		15c	61,300
2c	250,000	232,897		20c	50,000
3c	54,600			25c	50,000
4c	50,000			50c	51,600
5c	100,000			1 cor	11,600

Constant errors are found on the 1c and 2c values of the first delivery; they were corrected by the time of the second delivery. They are: Roman 1 in 1928 in position 10; 1 of 1928 missing in position 30. The type had been re-set since the Resello 1927 printings, to avoid the ragged appearance of the later issues of that overprint. More care seems to have been taken, this time; the plethora of errors is diminished.

Remainders of the "Resello 1927" stamps, which were de-monetized on 31st December 1927 were assembled at the Treasury in Managua, where they were assembled into two lots. The first of these was CANCELLED and sold (supposedly for 2 dollars per 1,000 copies) to a dealer, whose use of them appears to have been less than scrupulous. God knows what happened to the second lot, which John Stroub reported seeing on 15th June, 1928.

The new "Resello 1928" proved no more secure than its predecessors. To the old cleaning dodge could now be added the slipping in of "Resello 1927" in mixed frankings. Therefore the government tried again. A decree of 24th May 1928 read as follows:-

"Because the postage stamps which exist overprinted "1927" and "1928" are not offering the proper financial return to the Government, it becomes necessary to withdraw them from circulation in order to safeguard the postal revenue. It is therefore decreed:-

1. From 11th June next, the abovementioned issues will be demonetized and will be exchanged for those which the Government will place in the General Treasury and Postal Department. Agents having stocks of the aforementioned stamps are required to present themselves at their respective offices to effect the exchange. Individuals holding stocks of these stamps without being able to prove the legitimate source of their holdings will suffer the penalty prescribed by the law of 1927 covering Fraud Relating to Governmental Papers and Stamps.
2. The Minister of Finance will undertake to have overprinted as soon as possible at the National Printing Office, under all necessary security, the stamps described as follow, with the inscription of "Correos 1928". The following quantities which are now available from the general stock are all to be surcharged*:-

½c	527,300	6c	30,004
1c	400,000	10c	120,000
2c	375	15c	30,000
2c on 4c	58,014	20c	20,900
3c	30,000	25c	31,200
4c	30,000	50c	40,000
5c	120,000	1 cor	3,000

3. The postage stamps which remain in the general stock after withdrawal of the quantities mentioned as well as those to be received in exchange for those newly overprinted in accordance with the present decree will be packed and sealed pending their ultimate disposition by the Government."

Very soon afterwards the new printing of the Cathedral and Palace set went on sale in new colours. By this time the American Marines had done their job and restored a measure of stability to the country, its administration and its economy. The next period of chaos was not long a-coming, with the 1931 earthquake in Managua.

ADVERTISING UNDERPRINTS OF THE SEEBECK ISSUES

by RUSSELL HAYDON

This article is about the advertising underprints of El Salvador, but I understand that they also exist in Ecuador and Nicaragua.

In between 1894 and 1896, Seebeck attempted to promote his stamps by printing an advertisement on the back of some of them.

The advertisements are printed in dark blue and are usually found on the centre block of nine in a pane of 25. The remaining 16 have blank backs. One or two sides of the block of 25 have straight edges. This suggests that the imperforate sheet of 100 was quartered and then perforated (perf 12).

Both Hahn and Kloss state that the ads can be found on both india paper proofs and true stamps. The proofs are often found in colours different from those used on the issued stamps. On the gummed examples I've seen the advertisements are printed under the gum. Most copies are "cancelled" by a horizontal pen stroke or a small "X" pen mark.

The ads are known on the 1894-96 issues of Salvador, 1895 issues of Ecuador and the 1894 issues of Nicaragua. Some dealers have reported that they have seen the underprints on some of the Honduras issues also, but their existence has not been confirmed.

The nine ads are always arranged in the same way, as illustrated below. However three additional types of the ads promoting the magazine "Youth's Companion" are known on the Salvador stamps. Kloss states that he has seen one example of these with a straight edge suggesting that it did not come from the centre block of nine. Kloss also states that the colour and type of print used prove that Seebeck printed them.

EL SALVADOR - 1894-6 SEEBECK'S ADVERTISING EXPERIMENT

1896

Note top and right side are guillotined.

o—SMOKE—o SWEET CAPORAL Cigarettes	DUKE'S "BEST" CIGARETTES *ARE the Best*	Richmond Straight Cut No. 1 CIGARETTES Are the Best.
CHEW ADAM'S TUTTI ◆ ◆ FRUTTI	Stollwerk's CHOCOLATE IS THE BEST	Ask for KENNEDY'S CRACKERS
BEECHAM'S PILLS.	PEAR'S SOAP.	HOOD'S Sarsaparilla

on unissued Ezeta

CHEW ADAM'S TUTTI ◆ ◆ FRUTTI

as opposite

1894

CHEW
ADAM'S
TUTTI ◈
◈ FRUTTI

HOOD'S
Sarsaparilla

ADVERT. UNDER THE GUM.

1895

CHEW
ADAM'S
TUTTI ◈
◈ FRUTTI

CHEW
ADAM'S
TUTTI ◈
◈ FRUTTI

CAUSERIE

1101 Richard Washburn illustrates a cover from the Lloyd-Hapag liner "Croatia", and below it is a transcript of a letter received from the company. He asks why the double UPU rate of 6 cts. instead of the 3 cts. for the card to Germany. It was not carried by this ship because this letter was received in Hamburg April 30th., and the voyage ended in Hamburg May 3rd., so it was sent via regular mail service out of La Ceiba, probably through New Orleans to Europe. Richard says "Maybe Hapag charged the other 3cts.. If so, how did they get this back from Honduras? Through the UPU?"

Hapag-Lloyd AG • 2 Hamburg 1 • Ballindamm 25

Dear Mr Washburn

We acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 27th.- SMS "Croatia" was in service from 1889 until 1906 when she was sold to Furness. In 1907 Hapag bought her back again and again sold her in 1911 to an owner in Stettin.-

After 1918 she was sold for several times to Holland, Germany, Turkey etc. and finally wrecked 1961 in Italy.

The voyage in question started in Hamburg on February 8th 1904 via Grimsby, Havre to

St.Thomas and further via S.Domingo, Pto.Plata, Pto.Prince and Livingstone (including some small ports) to La Ceiba, where she arrived on March 23rd. This was the last port on the outward voyage from which she returned to Hamburg arriving here on May 3rd 1904.

Length 88,5 m
2,870 BRT

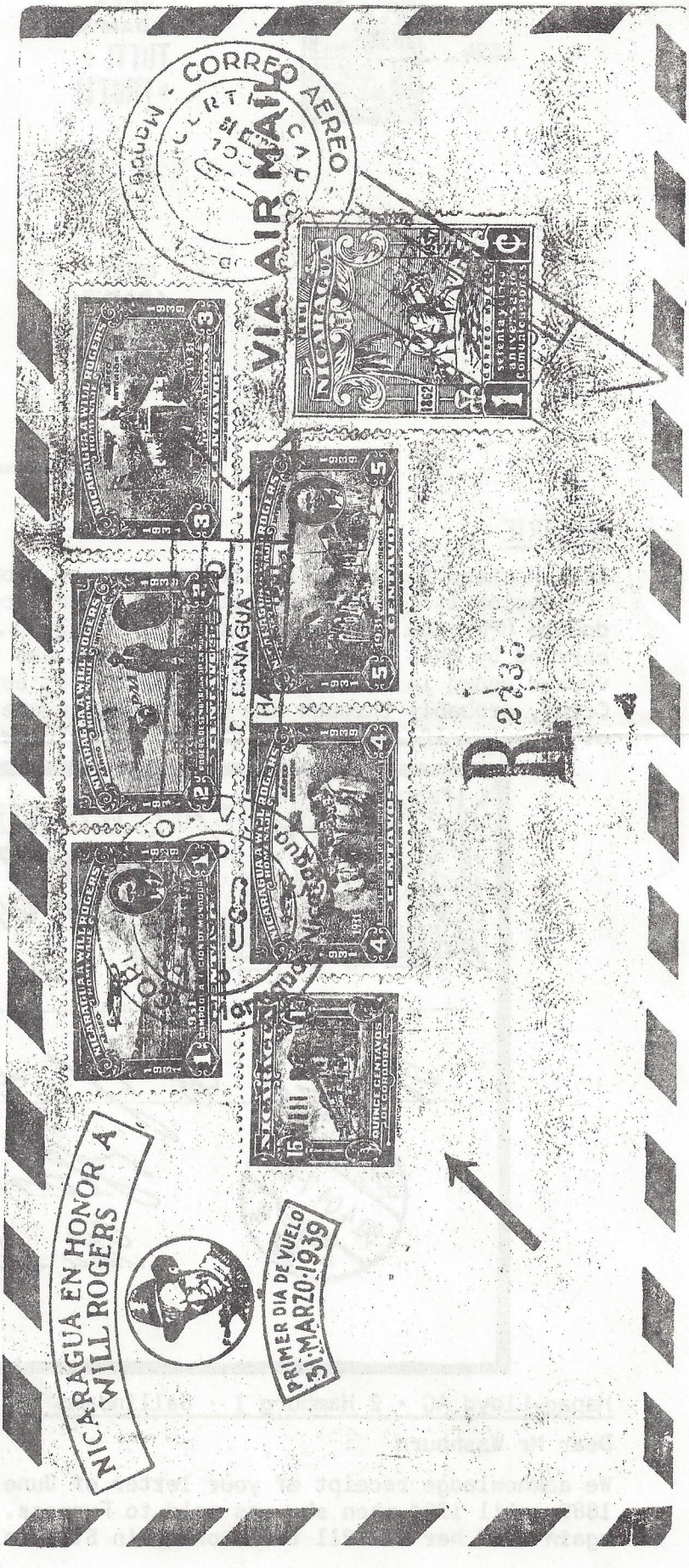
We hope that this information will help you.

Yours faithfully
HAPAG-LLOYD AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT

1102 Leo Malz asks about the Nicaragua Will Rogers cover, illustrated on the right, and a Honduras Fiscal-Postal cover illustrated on page 9.

"The illustration on the right is a rather common FDC for the 1939 Will Rogers issue. But notice please that there is an additional franking - a copy of SG 599 (15c carmine) with an overprint in violet ink (looks handstamped) reading in two lines "Will Rogers/ 1939". I have not seen this overprint before and of course it must be some privately made item. The usual questions for the causerie: Who did it? Why? Was only one stamp used? Were any passed through the mails with no other franking? etc. etc.

Also enclosed (see page 9) are photocopies of two Honduras covers I recently picked up. They are obviously philatelic covers prepared using revenue stamps. But what was the purpose of making up these particular covers? The top stamp is a 25c olive-bistre fiscal of 1927, the bottom stamp is a 0.005 centavo in aqua-blue which I've never seen before. It appears that the covers are not too old, they were in pristine condition and showed no aging or yellowing signs. The handstamp at the left of the second cover is in violet. Again, the usual questions for the causerie.



SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
REPUBLICA DE HONDURAS, C. A.
CORREO AEREO - VIA AIR MAIL
SECRETARIA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES
REPUBLICA DE HONDURAS, C. A.
CORREO AEREO - VIA AIR MAIL
HONDURAS

1103 Kilian Nathan's "Service Postal" official envelope, described by him as "unlisted" in our September issue No.9 continues to arouse interest. Another example of the envelope is illustrated overleaf. We have also received from John Fosbery a copy of the Nicaraguan section of the Collins & Calman catalogue of 1898, which lists the Service Postal envelope on page 586 under "OFFICIAL ENVELOPES. January 1st., 1890. Typographed in greenish blue on blue wove paper."

There follows an illustration of the "Service Postal" oval. Denis Kilner sends a photocopy of the 1905 edition of Bright & Son's catalogue from 164 Strand, London, W.C.. This lists the same "Official Envelope" with the same illustration, dated 1890.